

CLAIMS:

1. A flexible container comprising opposed front and back walls sealed together proximate to their edges to define an internal space, a pair of tear-limiting strips applied to a surface of, or within, each wall so that the strips coincide substantially on the opposed walls, defining corresponding tear paths along each surface, wherein the strips of each pair are spaced from about 1mm-2mm apart, and wherein the strips are about 1mm to about 5mm in breadth.
2. The container of claim 1 wherein the strips of each pair are spaced from about 1.2mm to 1.8mm apart.
3. The container of any one of the preceding claims wherein the strips of each pair are located to be substantially parallel to each other.
4. The container of any one of the preceding claims wherein the strips comprise sealable strips.
5. The container of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the strips are self-adhesive.
6. The container of any preceding claim wherein the strips are about 1.5 – 2.5mm in breadth.
7. The container of any one of the preceding claims wherein the walls comprise a laminate material.
8. The container of any one of the preceding claims wherein the strips are all located on the outer surface of the walls.
9. The container of any one of claim 1 to 7 wherein the strips are all located on the inner surface of the walls.

10. The container of any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein one pair of strips is located on an internal wall surface and the other on an external wall surface.
11. The container of claim 7 having a pair of strips located within the laminate material.
12. A flexible container according to claim 1, wherein the opposed back and front walls, each have a respective top edge, the walls being sealed together proximate to the respective top edges defining an internal space between them, wherein the pair of tear-limiting strips defines a tear path located to be spaced from at least a part of the top edge thereof.
13. The container of claim 12, wherein the tear barrier means is manufactured from a material more tear-resistant than the material of the walls.
14. A container as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the tear path extends from one end to the other across the back and front walls.
15. A container as claimed in claim 12 or claim 13 wherein the tear path extends from an end of a wall to the top edge.
16. A container as claimed in any one of claim 12 to 15 wherein the or each pair of tear limiting strips is located between adjacent layers in a laminate wall.
17. A method forming a wall material for a tearable flexible container comprising the steps of providing a flexible film for forming a wall of the container
providing a tear barrier element having substantially greater tear resistance than the wall film,

locating the element on the film to define a tear path thereon, and fixing the element to the film, wherein the tear barrier element comprises a pair of tear-limiting strips which are about 1mm to about 5mm in breadth and wherein the strips of each pair are spaced from about 1mm to 2mm apart.

18. A method manufacturing a sealable bag comprising the steps of providing a flexible film and forming it into a container defining an internal space bounded by respective front and back walls, and applying a pair of tear barrier strips to the walls to define a bounded tear path on each of the front and back walls, wherein the strips are located to be spaced from about 1mm to about 2mm apart and wherein the strips are about 1mm to about 5mm in breadth.
19. A method according to claim 18 comprising applying a pair of strips located to be substantially parallel to each other, the strips having substantially greater tear resistance than the flexible film.
20. A method of manufacturing a flexible walled container comprising the steps of providing first and second films, providing tear barrier material in strip form, applying the tear barrier material in paired strips to each film so as to define a substantially coinciding tear path on each and arranging the films in opposition to form a container comprising substantially coinciding tear paths on each wall, further comprising applying the paired strips to be spaced from about 1mm to about 2mm apart, wherein the strips are about 1mm to about 5mm in breadth.
21. A method according to claim 20 wherein the films comprise a laminate of alufoil and polyethylene.

22. A method according to claim 20 or 21 wherein the strips comprise a tape of polyester, polyethylene or polypropylene.